

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

T-03 OMB-01 MC-02 AID-20 RSR-01 /116 W
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R 150840 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3170

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, IN, PK, US

SUBJ: ARMS TO PAKISTAN-- REACTION

SUMMARY: PRESS AND RADIO/ TV FEATURE WIRE SERVICE REPORTS OF US DECISION PARTIALLY LIFT EMBARGO ON MILITARY SALES TO INDIA AND PAKISTAN, INCLUDING SUPPLY OF 300 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS (APC S). FORMER AMBASSADOR BOWLES REFERENCE TO " DISASTROUS EFFECT" ON PROSPECT FOR PEACE HIGHLIGHTED. EDITORIALS, ALL WRITTEN ON BASIS SISCO STATEMENT RATHER THAN MARCH 14 ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING LIFTING OF ARMS EMBARGO, RELATIVELY RESTRAINED THUS FAR WITH EXCEPTION PRO- CONGRESS NATIONAL HERALD. LOK SABHA DISCUSSING SUBJECT AT NOON TODAY (SEPTEL TO FOLLOW). END SUMMARY

1. US DECISION: MARCH 15 PRESS LEADS WITH WESTERN WIRE SERVICE REPORTS OF STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN' S ANNOUNCEMENT OF RETURN TO PRE-1971 POLICY, INCLUDING APPROVAL SALE 300 APC' S. REPORTS NOTE COMMENTS RE AVAILABILITY PEACE INDIGO SYSTEM FOR INDIA, US JUDGEMENT (TERMED " CLAIM" BY RADIO) DECISION NOT HAVE SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON RATIO MILITARY POWER BETWEEN INDIA
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AND PAKISTAN, AND US DISINCLINATION ENTER INTO ARMS RACE IN SOUTH ASIA.

2. BOWLES' COMMENT: PRESS CARRIES AND RADIO/ TV HIGHLIGHT WIRE SERVICE REPORT FORMER AMBASSADOR BOWLES AS SAYING IN DACCA US MOVE TO RESUME ARMS SHIPMENTS TO PAKISTAN WOULD HAVE DISASTROUS EFFECT ON PROSPECT FOR PEACE IN REGION. ACCORDING REPORT, BOWLES ALSO SAID AMERICAN PEOPLE AND CONGRESS WOULD OPPOSE ANY SUCH MOVE.

3. OTHER COVERAGE: PRESS ALSO CARRIES FULL COVERAGE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE MARCH 14 (NEW DELHI 2959), NOTES FOREIGN SECRETARY' S PROTEST TO AMBASSADOR, AND INCLUDES WIRE SERVICE REPORT OF BANGLADESH SPOKESMAN COMMENT STEP WOULD ONLY COMPLICATE SITUATION IN SUBCONTINENT.

4. EDITORIALS: TIMES OF INDIA, INDIAN EXPRESS AND STATESMAN EDITORIALLY ATTACK APPARENT US DECISION AS UNFORTUNATE BUT GENERALLY CAUTION AGAINST EXTREME REACTION. PRO- GOVERNMENT NATIONAL HERALD, ALSO COMMENTING ON BASIS SISCO STATEMENT RATHER THAN MARCH 14 ANNOUNCEMENT, CHARGES THAT USG SPEAKS WITH " TWO VOICES" AND THAT THE ONE PROFESSING PEACEFUL INTENTIONS " INVARIABLY SOUNDS HYPOCRITICAL." SISCO STATEMENT BELIES EARLIER STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN COMMENT RE USG DESIRE NOT GET INVOLVED IN AFFAIRS SUBCONTINENT, IT SAYS.

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